### RECENT SOLAR DISCOVERIES.

From the London Suurday Review.

Another stride in advance has to be recorded in Solar Physics-perhaps at this moment the most progressive department in science. Though much more detailed knowledge probably remains to be reached by prolonged ob-servation, we may say broadly that the spectroscope has now revealed the nature of solar prominences—the red flames of the eclipsejust as two years ago the same beautiful method solved the sun-spot problem, and not long before settled the vexed question of the constitution of nebulæ. Solar science belongs essentially to our own time. The ancient faith that the great luminary was a sphere of inconceivable brightness and spotless purity was, it is true, rudely disturbed two centuries and a half ago, when Galileo and his contemporaries observed that the solar disc was subject to eruptions of dark spots long supposed to be opaque clouds or solid bodies hiding a portion of the incandescent surface. But nearly 150 years clapsed before Wilson's discovery that the spots were cavities in the photosphere (a discovery now absolutely confirmed by the modern observations of Mr. De la Rue and others), and then another century passed before it was ascertained why these cavities looked dark and what was the nature of the disturbances which produced them. This has been the work of the last few years. Two rival theories for a short time struggled for preëminence. One of these, due to M. Faye, explained the phenomenon by supposing that the mass of the sun was composed of nebulous matter too much disorgaits excessive heat shine with much brilliancy, while the light was due to the partial condensation of the vaporous surface into incandescent particles in the cooler atmosphere. A spot, according to this view, was produced by an up-rush of the superheated and less brilliant vapor through the photosphere. The other theory was sup-ported by three Euglish astronomers-Mr. De la Rue, Mr. Balfour Stewart, and Mr. Loewy -who had been making diligent solar observations at Kew. Their theory was based on the established fact, that while the bright photosphere full of incandescent particles envelops the sun, the photosphere itself is in its turn surrounded by an absorbent atmosphere; and they held that a spot was produced by a down-rush of this atmosphere into the region of the photosphere. Partly by displacing, and partly by obscuring the photosphere, the whirlwind of atmosphere, according to this view, darkens the cavity of the spot. Much evidence was accumulated in favor of the English theory, but it was not conclusively established until the year 1866, when Mr. Lockyer applied to the investigation the same method of spectrum analysis by the aid of which Mr. Huggins had a short time before ascertained the constitution of nebulæ.

As this journal is not exclusively addressed to scientific readers, we may be excused a short digression to explain the nature of this marvellous weapon of modern science. Every one who has seen a rainbow knows that a white beam of light opens out, when refracted, into a number of diverging beams of various colors, from red to violet. This spectrum, when produced by the light of any incandescent solid or liquid matter, is always continuous; that is to say, the color changes gradually from red, through yellow, green, and blue, to violet; but there are no gaps in the spectrum wholly devoid of light. If, however, an atmosphere of absorbent gases is interposed between us and the luminous body, the spectrum, when care ully observed, found to be crossed by a number of dark lines corresponding to rays of particular re-fraugibility, to which, for some reason or other, this atmosphere is opaque. Every lines, C, D, and b—this last being in a region different gas stops a different kind of light, so where no other observer except M. Rayet saw enterprise, again the same autumn attempted that, by looking at the spectrum, it is possible to say, from the position of the dark lines, what the atmosphere between us and the luminous body is composed of. The spectrum from the sun is crossed by a multitude of these lines, which have already told their story as to some of the constituents-iron, hydrogen, sodium, and others-of the solar atmosphere which partially veils the splendor of the photosphere. Thus far we have recounted the results of comparatively old experiments, but a new observation of grand importance was made by Kirchhoff. observed the spectra, not only of solid bodies, but of burning gases and vapors; and he found that in the latter case, instead of getting a continuous spectrum crossed at intervals by dark lines, he saw nothing but a system of brilliant lines across an entirely obscure background. And this was not all. It was known that the vapor of sodium had the power of obscuring a particular portion of the yellow light of the spectrum, forming, in fact, across the yellow belt, two very marked lines, which are familiar in the solar spectrum, and are known as the D lines. When sodium was set on fire, it was found that the whole spectrum of the vapor was composed of two bright yellow lines, exactly corresponding to the two dark lines produced by the same vapor when interposed as an absorbing medium. This observation was soon generalized into the recognised law that the spectrum produced by any blazing gas or vapor is never continuous, but always consists in a series of bright lines separated by obscure intervals, those lines corresponding precisely to the dark lines produced by the same gas or vapor in a non-luminous state. The instant, therefore, that a spectrum is observed, we know what the nature of the burning matter is. If the spectrum is absolutely continuous, it is simply solid or fluid matter, including, be it observed, the case of minute solid or fluid incandescent particles floating in a gaseous atmosphere, which must be, in fact, the constitution of the solar atmosphere. It this spectrum is crossed by dark lines, we further know that between it and us there is an absorbing atmosphere; and lastly, if the spectrum consists only of isolated bright lines, we are sure that we are looking at blazing gas or vapor, and in very many cases it is possible to identify the particular gas or vapor by which the lines are produced. With these facts in his mind, the least

scientific reader will easily understand the application of the method to the investigation of sun-spots. If the spot was composed of superheated gas from the body of the sun, according to M. Faye's theory, it ought to give a spectrum of bright lines only. If it consisted of an nunsually thick layer of solar atmosphere, it ought to give out the common solar spectrum, only with the dark lines intensified, and possibly multiplied, by the greater thickness of absorbing matter. It was to test this that Mr. Lockyer first applied the spectroscope to the examination of sun-spots; and his observations, which were communicated to the Royal Society in the year 1866, showed unequivocally that the spectrum of the sun-spot cavity was a feeble reproduction of the common solar spectrum with the dark lines apparently broadened, and without a trace of a bright line across it. This was subsequently confirmed by the independent observations of Mr. Huggins, and seems conclusively to have disposed of M. Faye's theory, and to have proved that a sun-spot is a cavity formed by a tremendous down-rush of a portion of the solar atmosphere.

While the general character of sun-spots was thus at length established, there remained

another puzzle about the sun's constitution, which had long excited the curiosity of philosophers. When the sun is observed during a total eclipse, the dark mass of the intervening moon is seen to be surrounded by a broad halo of faint light called the corona, which is generally supposed to be the sun's atmosphere, and is of course invisible at ordinary times, on account of the dazzling brightness of the sun itself. In the portion of this corona which lies nearest to the sun's surface, and close round the body of the moon, are seen at various portions of the circle jagged peaks and ridges-generally of rosy light, red flames and prominences, as they are variously called—much brighter than the dim Jorona and much less elevated, though some of them have been measured, and found to attain the height of 70,000 miles. Like the corons, the prominences are invisible except when the sun is darkened, and every total eclipse in recent times has been watched with the utmost keenness in the hope of finding some clue to the problem what these prominences were. They might, it was thought, be solar clouds filled with incandescent particles less hot and less brilliant than the photosphere, but still bright enough to produce the beautiful phenomena seen during an eclipse; or, on the other hand, they might be enormous masses of flaming gas driven off from the sun in the course of the violent action to which (as the sun-spots testified) the superficial portion of the sun's mass was subject. In the same paper in which Mr. Lockyer announced his solution of the sun-spot difficulty, he suggested the pertinent question whether the spectroscope might not afford us evidence of the red flames which total eclipses had revesled. The question was not a mere barren conjecture, for Mr. Lockyer employed the spectroscope, which he had mounted for the examination of sun-spots, in dili-gently sweeping round the edge of gently sweeping round the edge of the sun in search of such spespectrum as the prominences might. From the year 1866 these observations were continued without result, and another observer, Mr. Stone, who afterwards com-menced a similar search, was equally unsuc-cessful; but at length, in the early part of the present month, a spectroscope of much greater power was mounted, and Mr. Lockyer was scon rewarded by a sight of the prominencespectrum, which, so far as the observations have yet gone, appears to consist of three bright lines-one corresponding exactly to the dark line C in the red portion of the solar spectrum, which is commonly considered to be due to hydrogen; another nearly coinciding with the line F at the confines of the blue and green, which is also ascribed to hydrogen; and a third at a little distance from the conspicuous sodium lines D, but clearly distinct from them, and, curiously enough, without any corresponding line which has yet been noted in the

solar spectrum. Before this result was achieved and communicated to the Royal Society, the eclipse had taken place, and several observers had gone to India and other places within the region of totality, armed with apparatus for the examination of the prominence-spectrum. All of these observers had reported that they got a speatrum composed of bright lines alone -the evidence of burning gas; but, either from the necessary hurry attendant upon observations during the few minutes allowed by the period of total obscuration, or from some other cause, the most remarkable discrepancies appeared in the positions assigned to the lines. Captain Herschel, who represented the Royal Society, reported three lines -one absolutely identical with D, another not quite agreeing with F, and the third somewhere near B or C. Major Tennant, who went to Guutoor, in India, on behalf of the Royal Astronomical Society, reported three where no other observer except M. Rayet saw enterprise, again the same autumn attempted any line at all. M. Rayet, who was at Wha-Tonne, considered that he detected as many as nine lines-B, D, E, b, another unknown line, two of the lines about F, and the line G. It will be observed that nearly all the lines named by these observers are given as actually corresponding with known solar lines. M. Jaussen, who represented the Académie des Sciences and the Bureau des Longitudes, reports the hydrogen lines as the principal lines. As yet the detailed accounts from these observers have not been received; but it seems probable, from the uncertainty with which the position of some of the lines is spoken of, and the wide discrepancy between the results of different observations, that the lines were determined, for the most part, rather estimate than by measurement. Although, therefore, the eclipse observa-tions had removed all doubt as to the gaseous nature of the prominences, and thus anticipated the result obtained by Mr. Lookyer, the discovery that the spectrum of the prominences might be observed at any time rendered it possible to ascertain the exact position of the lines with a precision which was far from being attained in the observations made during the eclipse. Scarcely, however, had it become known that the search for the prominences had at last proved successful, when a letter arrived in Paris from M. Janssen, stating that, while making his eclipse observations, it occurred to him that he ought to be able to see the prominence-spectrum without calling the moon in aid to relieve him from the brightness of the sun. Accordingly, before returning from Guntoor, he had made the attempt, and succeeded in getting several views of the prominence-spectrum some weeks before Mr. Lockyer had achieved the same result in England. It has often been remarked how frequently scientific discoveries are made by independent observers at the same time, and perhaps the coincidence was seldom closer than in this instance. The French observer was the first who actually caught sight of the coveted object, but the Englishman had been the first by a year or two to suggest and commence the search, and was the first to publish his discovery. results were announced to the Royal Society, and by Mr. De la Rue to the Académie des Sciences, before the arrival of M. Janssen's letter, which, singularly enough, was delivered to the President of the French Academy a few minutes after a more detailed announcement of the English discovery had been received by him.

M. Janssen's letter, which appeared in the Moniteur of the 25th instant, states that the prominences are principally composed of hydrogen, a result which, as to the line C, entirely agrees with Mr. Lockyer's. We shall wait with interest to see whether, on the receipt of the more complete report which M. Janssen as well as Mr. Lockyer promises, his conclusions will be found in other respects to agree absolutely with those of the English astronomer; but it is searcely likely, from the nature of the process, that there should One observer may posbe any discrepancy. sibly, by devoting himself too exclusively to one part of the spectrum, miss a line which another detects; but, with the method of ob-servation devised by Mr. Lockyer, a line which is once seen cannot well be assigned to a wrong place. The spectroscope being directed to the edge of the sun, shows in the field of view a narrow belt of the true solar spectrum, and beyond this comes the fainter spectrum of the sun's atmosphere, in which the prolongation of the dark lines is visible. When a prominence is the instrument sweeps round the

sun, the bright line flashes out, sometimes overlapping both the spectrum of the sun and that of the atmosphere, at other times entirely within, and then again at some distance be-yond, the edge of the sun; these variations depending of course on the form and position of the prominence, and affording, as both M. Janssen and Mr. Lockyer at once pointed out, the means of tracing an actual outline of the prominence observed. Whenever, therefore, a bright line is seen, it shows itself superimposed upon the actual solar scale, and any error in assigning its position would be incon-ceivable. Where the line actually corresponds to a dark line it appears sometimes as striking out the black line from the bright solar spectrum, at others as prolonging it with a line of light. Both these appearances were strikingly exhibited with the line C, when we had the privilege of observing the spectrum through Mr. Lockyer's instrument; and the extreme clearness with which the line D came out disposed in a moment of the idea, apparently entertained by some of the observers in India that the two were identical. Whatever this bright line may be, it is certainly not a sodium line. At present it is not certain that all the lines of the new spectrum have been fixed, and it is just conceivable that one pro-minence might be wanting in a line disclosed by another at a different region of the sun. But there seems reason to believe that the three lines already established form, at any rate, the principal part of the spectrum, and that these were the three lines in fact seen by most of the observers, although their positions are so differently estimated.

Ascent of Mount Baker.

Information has reached this country that Mount Baker, a well-known snow-capped peak of the Cascade mountains, in Northwest America, has been successfully scaled. It was so named by Vancouver, in April, 1792 in honor of Lieutenant Joseph Baker, and has long formed an object of great interest and curiosity to the settlers in Washington Territory and the southern portion of Vaucouver Island, from which it presents the most conspicuous feature in the grand scenery of the neighboring range. It is situated a little south of the 49th parallel of north latitude, and is distant from the coast, as the crow flies, an average of sixty miles. It is known to be an active volcano, as are, or have been, most of the peaks of the Cascade, and has been seen more than ovee, within the last few years, to be in eruption. In 1864 upwards of 1000 feet of the crater seemed to have fallen in. The scaling of it has often formed the subject of discussion among the adventurous hunters and explorers of that region, but the great labor and expense attendant upon an attempt to penetrate on foot the sixty miles of unexplored, dense, tangled forest-land and mountain intervening between the mountain and the coast have always deterred from the attempt. However, in August, 1866, Mr. E. T. Coleman (a member of the Aipine Clab, and author of "Scenes from the Snowfield of Mont Blanc"), the Hon. Justice Darwin, and Mr. Robert Brown (Commander of the first Vancouver exploring expedition), made the attempt to reach the mountain by ascending the Skadget river, which was supposed to head in Mount Baker or that vicinity. After a most remantic and perilous cance and land journey, through unexplored primeval forests, and by the homes of Indian tribes, little, if at all, known, they were repulsed by a hostile tribe of Indians near the base of the mountains-st he Tukalltum, or White Stone river, and were again forced to seek the coast. Mr. Brown having immediately after left for Nioaragua en route for England, and the Judge being occupied in less exciting labors, Mr. Coleman, after mana-Though they found, as hitherto, that the great difficulty was in reaching the base, yet, after enduring much hardship, which none but those acquainted with the country, or who have shared in such enterprises as exploring the trackless forests on the northern shores of the Pacific, can well imagine, they succeeded in accomplishing their object. Again, in August of this year, Mr. Coleman, with a single companion (and, it is hardly necessary to say, without 'guides' or any of the conveniences supposed to be indispensable in more civilized countries), succeeded in planting the English and American flags jointly on the summit, to the great delectation of the colonists of Paget Sound and Victoria, Vaucouver Island. The particulars yet received are very meagre; but a more extended account may be expected, as considerable excitement is said to prevail over the event. The aneroid baremeter showed a height of over 11,000 feet, considerably less than has been usually estimated (12,500), though the latter figures rest on no very sure data. Mount Hood, its rival (familiar to many through Bierstadt's painting), has already yielded its honors; and now that the mountain-climbers' attention has been turned to such an inexhausible and magnificent field, we may expect the two giant peaks which guard the portals of the Athabasca Pass in the Rocky Mountains—the "Botanists' Mountains" (Hooker and Brown)-to be scaled. Here, then, is a new ambition, which may well tax all the energies of the Alpine Club .-London Athenaum.

The Japanese Coolies.

The Honolulu Commercial Advert ser has the fallowing account of the Japanece laborers who have recently arrived at the Sandwich

They appear to have been engaged in nearly the same manner as previous shipments of Chinese coolies, under an engagement made in Japan to serve here three years, and then to be returned to their native country, if they so elect. That the terms on which they were engaged and the treatment guaranteed to them constitute the mildest and least offensive coclie system known, cannot be gainsaid, at least so fair as the details have transpired. But if this first importation is a fair specimen of what may be expected hereafter, the exparience of the planters is not in their favor. Most of these Japanese have been found far inferior both to Chinese and Hawaiians as field laborers, while the proportion who are off duty, disabled from various causes, is unusnally large.

It has been found that many of them are diseased, while most of them are victors. Charles N. Bancker, nearly worthless as laborers, some are badly the reports which come to us are reliable, they are the most debased creatures in existence-a race of sodomites. No father-Hawaiian or foreigner-can allow them in contact with his children or his family, without risk of contamination hardly less to be dreaded

The experience of those who have employed them-but especially of planters-is not favorable, and the propriety of introducing an element of such devasement as a foundation for the social and physical development of these islands is questionable. When the facts come to be known, the voice of the nation will be uttered against it.

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\$948,711-80 Premiu ws ou Policies not marked off 406,845 71

\$1,355,557 51

PREMIUMS MARKED OFF 

3894,923 49 Interest during the same period-Balvages, etc..... 107.408 83

\$1,002,422 81 LOSSES, EXPENSES, ETC., During the year as above. Marine and Inland Naviga-

50,586 63 48,555-89 and Municipal Taxes

#### ASSETS OF THE COMPANY November 1, 1868.

\$200,000 U. S. 5 per cent. Loan, 10-40s. \$208 500-00 120,000 U. S. 6 per cent. Loan, 1881... 50,000 U. S. 6 per cent. Loan (for Pacific Railroad)..... 136,800 00 200,000 State of Pennsylvania 6 per cent, Loan 125,000 City of Philadelphia 6 per cent, Loan (exempt from Tax).

50,000 State of New Jersey 6 per cent, Loan 211,375 00 128,594-00 51,500 00 Mortgage 6 per cent. Bonds 25,000 Pennsylvania Railroad 24 Mortgage 6 per cent. Bonds 25,000 Western Penn'a Railroad 20,200-00

Mortgage 6 per cent, Bonds (Penn'a Railroad guar-7,000 State of Tennessee 6 per cent. Loan ... 15,000 Germantown Gas Company; principal and interest gnar-anteed by the City of Phi-ladelphia, 360 sbares stock 10,000 Pennsylvania Railroad Com-

15,000 00 11,300:00 5,000 North Pennsylvania Railroad Company, 100 shares 20,000 Philadelphia and Southern 15,000 00

gage, first liens on City Properties..... 207,900:00 \$1.109.900 Par Market value, \$1,130,325 25 Cost, \$1,093,604.26. Real Estate
Bills Receivable for Insur-Balances due at Agencies-322,486 94 Premiums on Marine Policles, Accrued Interest, and other debts due the Com-

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They have a so dectared a SCRIP DIVIDEND of THIRTY PER CENT, on the EARNED PREMIUMS for the year ending October 31, 1868, certificates of which will be issued to the parties entitled to the same, on and after the 1st December proximo, free of National and State Taxes, They have ordered, also, that the SCRIP CERTIFI.

CATES OF PROFITS of the Company, for the year ending October 31, 1864, be redeemed in CASH, at the Office of the Company, on and after 1st December proximo, all interest thereon to cease on that date. By a provision of the Charter, all Certificates of Scrip not presented for redemption within five years after public notice that they will be redeemed shall be forfeited and cancelled on the Books of the Company. Re No certificate of profits issued under \$25. By the Act of Incorporation, 'no certificate shall issue unless claimed within two years after the declaration of

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Steamers leave regularly every Saturday at
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PHILADELPHIA AND TRI ton Steamboat Line.—The steamb lab with Burkhes' I leaves A RUH street Wharf, Trenton, stopping at Tacony, Torresdate, Bever Burling on, Bristol, Florence, Robbins' Wharf, White Hill. Leaves Aich Street Wharf Leaves South Trenton Monday, "16, 12 M. Saturday, Nov.14, 2 P. Monday, "16, 12 M. Monday, "16, 4 P. Tuesday, "17, 5 P. M. Tuesday, "17, 5 P. Wed'day, "18, 1½ P.M. Wed day, "18, don't Thursday, "19, 2½, 2° M. Thursday, "19, 7, A. Friday, "20, 3 P.M. Friday, "20, 7½ A. Fare to Trenton, 40 cents, each way; intermedial places, 25 cents.

places, 25 cents. OPPOSITION TO THE CO. MONOFOLY.

Steamer JOHN SYLVESTER will make da excursions to Wilmington (Sundays excepted), tond ing at Chester and Marcus Hook, leaving ARC Street wharf at 945 A. M. and 350 P. M. returning leave Wilmington at 7 A. M. and 1230 P. M.

Light freights taken.

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The Steamer S. M. Fell Ton leaves Chesnut Strewharf at 2 P. M., and Witnington at 6.6 A. M. Fere, 10 cts. Freignt taken at low rates. 11 16 12t

DAILY EXCURSIONS.— TH

spiencia steamoat John A. WA

at vo clock P. M., for Burington and Bristot, touc
ing at Riverson, Torresdale, Andalusia, and Beverl
Returning, leaves Bristo at 710 o'clock A. M. Fac
25 cents each way. Excursion, 40 cents.

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Transportation Company Despate
a Swint-sure Lines, via Delaware and Rarita
Canal, on and after the 15th of March, leaving daily
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For freight, which will be taken on accommodating
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PERFECT FITTING SHIRTS AND DRAWERS All other articles of GENTLEMEN'S DRESS GOODS in full variety.
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PROPOSALS.

PROPOSALS.

OFFICE DEPOT AND DIRHUESING Q. M.,
HEQS. DEPARTMENT OF THE SOUTH.
ATLANTA GA. NOV. 3 1875.
Sealed Proposals will be received at this Office until 12 M. & ONDAY, Nov. 23, 1868, for supplying

until 12 M. \*\*SONDAY, Nov. 23, 1868, for supplying the Depot with

500,00 pounds WESTERN GATS.

44.00 pounds CORN.

1, 10 00 pounds TIMOTHY HAY, baied.

20,000 pounds STRAW, baied.

Oa sand Corn to be of prime quality, sound, free from dust or dirt, and put up in good, strong sacks.

Hay and straw n ust be well onted, perfectly cured, and free from weeds, dust, or dirt. The whole will be subjected to a rigid inspection.

All Forage and Siraw to be delivered in cars on the sloing of Messrs, Green, Wright & Carr, or at the Quartermaster's Storehouse, foot of Forsyth street, Allania.

Custiermaster's Storehouse, foot of Forsyth street, Alianta.

Lelivery to commence Jenuary 1, 18'9 and to continue in equal quartities on the first day of each ment for five mouths ensuing.

Froposals should be made for each article separately, and in Thirlicare, with a copy of this advertism in his attached to each, and bear the indo asment in their own head of the persons of whom there must be at least the offered as sorely for the faithful performance of the contract, if swarded.

Bids will be received for any amount not less than 180,460 prunds.

The right is reserved to receive or right such parts or the whole of bids as may be for the best laterests of the service.

Proposals should be addressed to the under-signed, and incorred upon the coveloge, Proposals for the Delivery of forsge and Straw."

Ey order of Brev, Brig. (Sep. R. Sax'on, Chief Q M.

Brevet Captain and A. A. Q M., U.S. A., in charge of Dego.

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